

Taking your Savannah kitten home

YAY the day has finally come!!!! Taking your kitten home is very exciting but also can have its challenges. Here are some tips and tricks to make your new little buddy feel more at home!!

Night one

When you first bring your kitten home you should set up a closed room for kitten complete with litter box, food and water. Too big of a space can overwhelm and scare your new kitten which can make his integration a little tougher for both parties. Your kitten should spend the first week to two weeks in their special room when you aren't around to supervise, **especially if you have other pets**. An unsupervised kitten can also get into a lot of things they probably shouldn't so until they learn the rules of their new home its best to guide them in the safest way possible.

Introducing other pets

When you introduce your kitten to other family pets it's important to be patient and to follow the steps. Your current pets may not be happy about a new kitten and first you should introduce them through a closed door where they can smell one another under the door, this can take a few days. Then you can try through a carrier or kennel as long as it's friendly. Make sure to give all pets in the household a lot of love and attention in the first few days and don't focus mainly on your new addition. This can make first pets jealous and territorial towards your new kitten.

The big introduction should be light, happy and fun! I suggest bringing out a few toys and starting play time with your kitten and the other pets. It's a good way to distract all the pets and introduce them easily. Treats for everyone also help! Please do this carefully if other pet's dog or cat are still being too aggressive then please give me a call and I can try and help you with a few other ideas. Remember kitten is still very small and could be hurt easily if not properly supervised around other pets. There are many great step by step videos you can google to introducing certain pets I highly recommend watching a few!!

Curbing bad behaviors

Just like any being we all need to learn the rules and it's important to have the proper guidance to do so. You will find that your Savannah kitten is very high energy and may have a few habits that need to be broken. If you find your kitten is scratching furniture do not hit or scare your kitten because this can cause other behavioral issues instead firmly pick up your kitten tell them "no, don't or stop" in a very stern voice then take them to their scratch post and show them they are allowed to scratch here by taking their front paws and gently mimicking the moments they do when scratching the post. If they start to do it on their own tell them they are "good" in a happy voice and give them a pet as positive reinforcement?

Cats are incredibly good at reading your body language and your tone of voice it doesn't take much for them to realize you are displeased with their actions. Over reacting and yelling hissing or physically hurting your kitten will not correct the behavior but rather make them afraid of you and other humans and usually only spurs more bad behavior!!

If you have an issue with biting or scratching too much when playing then this behavior also needs to be corrected before they get bigger and can cause real harm. Usually Savannahs aren't aggressive unless they are made to be aggressive by bad human behavior. The only time a bite or scratch may happen is when they

get carried away playing but this too needs to be corrected and can be handled the same way as furniture scratching. If your kitten gets too rough playing grab your kitten gently but firmly look at them and again in a very stern voice tell them “no, stop or don’t” and then stop play time. They will understand you disapprove of this behavior and won’t play with them after they have gone too far. Your kitten only wants to please you especially with the Savannah breed.

Not making the litter box can also be a frustrating situation. For the first while the litter box needs to be in an easily accessible place so your kitten remembers where it is and can make it there quickly. Remember to keep taking your kitten to the litter box lots in the first few days. Kittens will be litter trained upon leaving so if they are having issues then we need to figure out why. Again if this is an issue please call me and I will help with finding a solution.

Diet

At this point we’ve probably had lots of conversations on the food your Savannah will require but here it is in writing so you always remember.

Your Savannahs food should have a minimum of 30% protein, no more than 9% Ash and **never contain corn**. It should have a higher amount of Taurine which is very important to a hybrid cat’s digestive system. Since a wild cat will get a lot of taurine from their “kills” an exotic cat doesn’t get enough from just kibble. I supplement my Savannahs with extra taurine and other vitamins, minerals and probiotics, this is especially important to do if you only feed them kibble and not a raw diet. Sardines are a great treat and very high in taurine for a boost every now and then. I highly recommend when you can feed your Savannah boiled skinless chicken breast and boiled hamburger. Especially if you want them to reach the full potential of their size and muscle. **When you first bring home your kitten it is important to wet down any dry kibble you give them until 15-20 weeks of age or until they can handle chewing the hard kibble easily.** I also suggest to help give your kitten a growth boost since he will be newly weaned to feed him canned wet food preferably chicken as it’s easiest on their tummies. Brand is up to you at this point it doesn’t have to be super fancy or expensive this is purely to fatten them up and ensure they don’t lose any weight during the stressful transition period.

If you find your kitten has an upset stomach and is either constipated or has diarrhea there are a few things we can do. Boiling skinless chicken breast is good to calm the stomach and will help make stool solid again. Another good trick is adding pure pumpkin or ground flax seed to wet cat food, its fiber that should help to regulate and solidify stool. If your kitten is constipated Pumpkin and extra probiotics should help. **It’s very important to make sure kitten is hydrated with both of these situations. Diarrhea can cause dehydration very quickly and constipation can be caused by dehydration. You can easily tell if your kitten is dehydrated by pinching the skin on the back of their neck, if the skin goes back quickly then they are hydrated but if the skin stays pinched or takes time to go back to normal then you may be dealing with dehydration which can be a very serious problem if not dealt with quickly. Please contact a veterinarian or myself immediately so we can figure out what needs to be done at this time. (403)506-2526.**

If you are unsure of anything please do not hesitate to call me for any kind of information on your new Savannah kitten. I am always here to help and will do so gladly!!! If you ever have any health concerns and are unable to get ahold of me please contact your veterinarian or Mine Dr.Curtis Luzi
vets@riverstonevetservices.ca

Randi Ingram 403 506 2526 or Randitemple@gmail.com

